

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSC-01 AID-20 IO-12 PC-04 CU-04

SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7143
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL BAMAKO 1413

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, ML
SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES
REF: A) BAMAKO 1320; B) BAMAKO 1324 (NOTAL)

1. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTS CONTAINED IN REF B ON RECENT
MINISTERIAL SHAKE- UP, WISH TO ADD FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

2. AT FIRST GLANCE, CABINET SHUFFLE REFLECTS FIRST SHIFT IN
GOVERNMENTAL BALANCE IN FAVOR CIVILIAN ELEMENTS SINCE 1968 COUP.
UP TILL NOW, EACH GOVERNMENT SHIFT BROUGHT MORE MCNL MEMBERS
INTO GOVERNMENT AS MINISTERS. NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COMPOSED
OF 9 CIVILIANS AND 5 MILITARY, VICE 6-6 PARITY OF FORMER
COUNCIL. SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE IS REPLACEMENT FORMER
MINFIN CAPT. BABA DIARRA BY DEVELOPMENT BANK PRESIDENT THIEOULE
KONATE. OTHER SHIFTS IN FAVOR CIVILIANS RESULT OF SPLITTING TWO
FORMER MINISTRIES (EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) INTO
FOUR PORTFOLIOS OF MORE MANAGEABLE SIZE. THUS, WHILE DIARRA'S
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LOSS OF FINANCE PORTFOLIO APPEARS POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT
WITHIN FRAMEWORK INTERNAL POLITICS OF MILITARY COMMITTEE,
REASON FOR OTHER CHANGES APPEARS TO BE AS ADVERTISED - TO IMPROVE
EFFICIENCY OF MALI'S BUREAUCRACY.

3. LIKEWISE ONLY ONE MAJOR CABINET CHANGE EVERY THREE YEARS IS QUITE NORMAL. POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF NUMERICAL SHIFT IN FAVOR CIVILIANS ALSO SUBSTANTIALLY MITIGATED BY FOLLOWING FACTORS:

A) MILITARY COMMITTEE REMAINS ULTIMATE REPOSITORY POLITICAL POWER AND NOT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS;

B) NEW MINISTERS ARE ALL TECHNOCRATS HAND- PICKED BY PRESIDENT AND MILITARY COMMITTEE. THEY ARE IN VERY REAL SENSE " TRAORE'S BOYS" AND ARE A GROUP CONSIDERED " PROGRESSIVE", WELL- TRAINED, ADMIRED BY THEIR PEERS, AND WELL- CONNECTED.

C) PRESIDENT TRAORE HIMSELF, INCREASINGLY CONFIDENT OF HIS EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, HAS BECOME THE UNCHALLENGED LEADER OF COLLEGIAL MILITARY IN- GROUP WHICH RULES MALI. THUS, ANY CHANGE IN COMPLEXION MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ASSUMES MORE SUBDUED HUE IN LIGHT TRAORE'S DOMINANT ROLE. IT COULD ALSO MEAN THAT MCNL WANTS CIVILIANS TO INTERPRET SHIFT AS MOVEMENT TOWARDS EVENTUAL RETURN TO " CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT", BUT IF SO THIS POINT HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

4. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF SIX NEW MINISTERS:

A. THIEOULE KONATE- MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT BANK: KONATE ALREADY HAD MINISTERIAL RANK BY DINT HIS PRESIDENCY BDM. AT AGE 40, HE CLEARLY ONE OF LEADING CONTENDERS FOR TOP EXECUTIVE JOB IN ANY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. A SORBONNE- TRAINED LAWYER, KONATE VISITED THE U. S. IN 1969 AS A LEADER GRANTEE. SON OF MAMADOU KONATE, FOUNDER OF FORMERLY DOMINANT UNION SOUDANAISE POLITICAL PARTY, HE HAS MANY EARMARKS OF HEIR APPARENT. KONATE HAS A BRIGHT AND INDEPENDENT MIND AND HAS BEEN OPEN AND FORTHRIGHT IN HIS DEALINGS WITH US. PROUD AND NATIONALISTIC, KONATE MAY PROVE MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH BY THE FRENCH IN HIS NEW POSITION THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. HE IS OF MALINKE ORIGIN AND IS MARRIED TO BEAUTIFUL BAMBARA WHO IS ONE- QUARTER BASQUE.

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B. ALY CISSE - MINISTER OF HEALTH: CISSE IS ONE OF THOSE WIZENED CAPABLE BUREAUCRATS WHO LEARNED HIS LESSONS WELL DURING COLONIAL AND POST- COLONIAL PERIODS. A SOLID ADMINISTRATOR, HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF JUSTICE MINISTRY AND MOST RECENTLY OF DEFENSE. CISSE IS ONE OF FEW HIGHER OFFICIALS OF MODIBO KEITA ERA WHO STILL HOLD INFLUENTIAL POSITION. HE IS APPARENTLY NON- IDEOLOGICAL STALWART, WHO AT AGE 50 HAS IMPRESSED MCNL WITH HIS MANAGERIAL ABILITIES, WHICH ARE SORELY NEEDED IN HIS NEW JOB. HE HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH US ON MILITARY MATTERS IN PAST FEW YEARS AND SEEMS QUITE WELL DISPOSED TO CULTIVATING US- MALIAN RELATIONS.

C. A SAM DIAWARA - MINISTER OF COMMERCE: BORN IN 1939, DIAWARA

IS FORMER CHIEF OF MFA'S POLITICAL DIVISION AND MORE RECENTLY DIR. GEN OF MFA. EDUCATED AT SORBONNE (LAW DEGREE AND PHD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE), DIAWARA HAS BEEN OPEN AND CORDIAL WITH US. HE IS " SOCIALIST" BY INCLINATION AND TRAINING AND TENDED SUPPORT RADICAL THIRD- WORLD FOREIGN POLICY WHILE AT MFA (SEE PLBRL REPORT SUBMITTED MARCH 22, 1973). DIAWARA HAS ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT TRAORE ON MANY OF HIS TRIPS, AND PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT DIAWARA'S SKILL, PARTICULARLY HIS DRAFTING ABILITY. KEY TO HIS NOMINATION TO COMMERCE POST MAY BE THATT UNLIKE MOST YOUNG TECHNOCRATS, HE COMES FROM ONE OF BAMAKO'S ABLEST SAROKOLE MERCHANT FAMILIES, AND HE SHOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT LINK TO THAT IMPORTANT GROUP.

D. MAMADI KEITA - MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: BORN IN 1939, KEITA WAS EDUCATED IN MALI AND FOLLOWED COMMERCIAL/ ECONOMIC STUDIES AT LILLE AND LE HAVRE. HE WORKED IN COMMERCE MINISTRY AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BEFORE BECOMING ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT IN 1969. A HARD- WORKING AND SELF- ESSACING TECHNOCRAT WITH VISIBLY FEW IDEOLOGICAL BIASES, KEITA VISITED THE U. S. IN 1969 TO ATTEND IMF COURSE, WHILE HIS WIFE FOLLOWED SHORT COURSE IN FAMILY PLANNING IN NEW YORK. KEITA FRIENDLY WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND SEEMS TO ENJOY COMPANY OF AMERICANS. HE SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH. HE IS OF MALINKE ORIGIN.

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D. SEKOU SANGARE - MINISTER OF STATE ENTERPRISES: SANGARE (AGE 37) RECEIVED LAW DEGREE FROM PARIS AND WAS CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE AT FINANCE MINISTRY BEFORE BECOMING DIRECTOR OF CABINET AT PRESIDENCY IN 1969. HE STILL CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL BANK, HAS VISITED U. S. ON LEADER GRANT AND FOR IMF MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, AND ATTENDED UNCTAD II IN DELHI IN 1968. HE HEADED GOVERNMENT COMMISSION WHICH MADE LONG STUDY OF STATE ENTERPRISES AND COMES AS CLOSE AS ANYONE IN MALI TO BEING EFFICIENCY EXPERT. A BRIGHT YOUNG LEADER, SANGARE HAS IMPRESSED US AS BEING COMPETENT AND INDEPENDENT- MINDED IN TUNE WITH MODERN MOVEMENTS IN AFRICAN AND THIRD- WORLD POLITICS. HE IS PERSONALLY VERY CLOSE TO PRESIDENT TRAORE. HE CONSIDERED COMPETENT ECONOMIST. SANGARE IS PEUHL FROM BOUGOUNI AREA, BUT DOES NOT SPEAK PEUHL LANGUAGE.

F. MOUSTAPHA SOUMARE - MINISTER OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS: BORN IN 1934, SOUMARE IS FORMER DIRECTOR OF LYCEE TECHNIQUE, ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE, AND NATIONAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL. HE OBTAINED HIS DOCTORATE IN MATHEMATICS IN 1970 AFTER STUDHING AT DAKAR, TOULOUSE, AND CAEN. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NEVER VISITED U. S., HE HAS LEADER GRANT TRIP PLANNED FOR AUGUST. SOUMARE IS ESSENTIALLY EDUCATOR -- AND A GOOD ONE. HE HAS WORKED CLOSELY AND WELL WITH OUR PAO.

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